

REMARKS

The abstract, the specification, and claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 have been amended and claim 2 has been cancelled.

Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration of claims 1 and 3-7 now pending in the application.

The last Office Action dated March 21, 2003 has been carefully considered and indicates that:

- a) The abstract is objected to;
- b) The disclosure is objected to;
- c) Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lallane; and
- d) Claims 2-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the abstract, applicant has presented a replacement Abstract of the Disclosure section replacing "**comprises**"

with **--includes--** in line 5 thereof so as to eliminate a legal phraseology, as required by the Examiner.

In view of the replacement Abstract of the Disclosure section presented replacing **"comprises"** with **--includes--** in line 5 thereof so as to eliminate a legal phraseology, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's grounds for the objection to the abstract are no longer tenable and applicant therefore respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the disclosure, applicant has presented a replacement paragraph beginning on page 11, line 16 replacing **"stating"** with **--starting--**, as required by the Examiner.

In view of the replacement paragraph beginning on page 11, line 16 presented replacing **"stating"** with **--starting--**, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's grounds for the objection to the disclosure are no longer tenable and applicant therefore respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lallane and the Examiner's objection to claims 2-7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in

independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, applicant has:

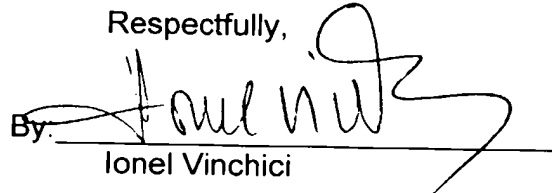
1. Cancelled allowable claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer.
2. Amended base claim 1 to include the limitations of cancelled allowable claims 3.
3. Amended claims 3, 5, and 6 to reflect proper dependency.

In view of the cancellation of allowable claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer, the amendment made *supra* to base claim 1 to include the limitations of cancelled allowable claims 3, and the amendments made *supra* to claims 3, 5, and 6 to reflect proper dependency, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's grounds for the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lallane and the Examiner's grounds for the objection to claims 2-7 are no longer tenable and applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection and the objection be withdrawn.

The prior art cited but not relied upon by the Examiner has been carefully considered and duly noted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejection are earnestly solicited. Allowance of claims 1 and 3-7 at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Date: April, 29, 2003

Respectfully,

By: Ionel Vinchici